(b) if so, whether the telephones of the above area are to be converted into electronic ones and if so, by when; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the equip ment required for conversion have not been supplied so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE [MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir. There is some difficulty in inter-exchange calls between cross bar exchange and the electronic exchange.

(b) Yes, Sir. The cross bar system serving the area was originally of 7,000 lines out of which 4,000 lines have already been replaced. The remaining are under the process and will be scrapped by 1993-94.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is true that although some equipment was allotted in 1991-92, the supplied have not been made so far. The same are expected for installation during 1993-94.

Amendment of National Housing Bank Act

@*395. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the National Housing Bank Act to provide for speedy foreclosure of mortgages of housing finance institutions refinanced by National Housing Bank;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal';

(c) to what extent it would help the individuals, private sector and non-resident Indians to make investments in housing schemes in the country;

(d) whether Government have finalised the National Housing Policy and if so, what are the details thereof; and

@Previously starred question 255, transferred from 24th July, 1992.

(e) by when the amendment is likely to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI iDALBlR SINGH): (a) to (e) The National Housing Bank has submitted a proposal for some amendments in the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 which also include provisions for creation of charge by declaration and speedy foreclosure of mortgages. The proposal is under consideration of Government. The National Housing Policy was laid in both Houses of Parliament on 9th July, 1992. Some of the important objectives and goals laid down in the Policy are:

(i) Reduce houselessness in the next 10 years by providing large supply of developed land and finance to different income groups;

(it) Promote use of appropriate and energy saving build'ng materials and cost effective construction technologies;

(iii) Assist in the upgradation of all unserviceable houses in rural and urban areas, with a view to particularly improving, the housing conditions of the rural homeless and the inadequately housed, slum dwellers, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other vulnerable sections;

(iv)To assist all people, and in particular the houseless, the inadequately housed and the vulnerable sections, to secure for themselves affortable shelter through access to developed land, building materials finance and technology;

(v) To create an enabling environment for housing activity by various sections by eliminating constraints and by developing an efficient and equitable system for the delivery of housing inputs;

(vi) To expand the provision of infrastructure facilities in rural and urban areas in order to improve the environment of human settlements, increase the access of poorer households to basic services, and to increase the supply of developed land for housing;

(vii) To help mobilise the resources and facilitate the expansion of investment in housing in order to meet the needs of housing construction and upgradation and augmentation of infrastructure; and

(viii) To promote a more equal' distribution of land and houses in urban and rural areas, and to curb speculation in land and housing inconsonance with macro-economic policies for efficient and equitable growth.

Air service between Bombay-Bhuj Bombay

*396. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal to operate direct daily flight on Bombay-Bhuj-Bombay route;

(b) whether it is a fact that Bombay-Bhuj-Bombay route has heavy traffic and due to alternate day schedule people of the Kutch region are facing hardships.

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to operate regular Boieng flights on this route;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be introduced; and

(e) what will be the time schedule of arrival/departure and the pro-rata reser vation quota?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Indian Airlines is operating regular Boeing flights between Bombay and Bhuj 4 days a week. The capacity presently provided is considered adequate to meet the existing demand.

(e) The flight departs Bombay et 1400 hrs., arrives Bhuj at 1555 hrs., departs Bhuj at 1625 hours and arrives Bombay at 1730 hours. While the seat allocation between Bombay and Bhuj has been kept at 60 in each flight, this is subject to change depending on the pattern of traffic demand.

राजस्व विभाग के अधीनस्थ कार्यालयों में राजभाषा के सहायक निदेशक

*397. श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर :
श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार ने राजस्व विभाग के अन्तर्गत केन्द्रीय प्रत्यक्ष-कर बोर्ड, और केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क और सीमाशुल्क बोर्ड के देश भर में फैले हुए अधीनस्थ कार्यालयों में राजभाषा के सहायक निदेशकों के कितने-कितने पदों का सृजन किया है ; और

(ख) अब तक कितने पद भरे गये हैं और इन पदों पर कार्यरत अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति किस-किस तारीख को की गई है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर) : (क) केन्द्रीय प्रत्यक्ष कर बोर्ड में सहायक निदेशकों (रा० भा०) के 70 पद तथा केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क तथा सीमाशुल्क बोर्ड में सहायक निदेशकों (रा० भा०) के 42 पद हैं।

(ख) इस समय केन्द्रीय प्रत्यक्ष कर बोर्ड में सहायक निदेशकों (रा० भा०) के 54 पद तथा केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क तथा सीमाशुल्क बोर्ड में इनके 24 पद भरे हुए हैं।